

THE
NOBLE BIRTH

And Gallant

ATCIEVEMENTS

Of that Remarkable Out-Law

ROBIN HOOD.

Together with a true Account of the many
Merry and Extravagant Exploits he play'd
in twelve severall Stories.

Viz.

The noble Parentage of Robin Hood.

Robin Hoods Delight.

Robin Hood and the fifteen
Forresters.

Robin Hood & the Tanner.

Robin Hood and the But-
cher.

Robin Hood and the Beg-
gar.

Robin Hood and the
Stranger. (thop.

Robin Hood and the Bi-

Robin Hood and Queen
Katherine.

Robin Hood and the
Curtall Fryer.

Robin Hood and the
Fisherman.

Robin Hoods Chase.

Newly Collected into one Volumn by
an Ingenious Antiquary.

LONDON,

Printed for Thomas Vere and William Gilbertson, and are to be sold
at their Shops without Newgate, 1662.

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Robin Hood and the
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The Noble Parentage, and the Achievements of Robin Hood.

Robin Hood, late descender of the noble Family of the Earle of Huntington, and being outlawed by Henry the Eighth for many Extravagancies and Outrages he had committed, he did with together a company of such bold and courageous persons as himself, who lived in the most part in Sherwood Forrest in Nottinghamshire. He had these alwayes ready at his command, so that if need did require, he had at the winning of his bow, would have forty, or fifty, or more at the main a readiness to assist him. He whom he most affected, by reason of his late father, was called Little John, but not inferior to any of them in strength of Body, and stoutness of spirit. He would not entertain any into his service, whom he had not first fought withall himself, and made full test of his courage and ability, how to use his weapons, which was the reason, that oftentimes he came to blows with weaker men than he was; which was not without occasion of the destruction of his love to the person whom he fought with; for ever afterwards he would be the more familiar with him, and better respect him for that. Many petitions were presented to the King for a pardon for him, which the King (understanding of the many good deeds that he and his Associates played) would have not sent him; but being attended with a considerable Guard, did make a progress himself to have him out, and to bring him to some punishment. At the last, by the means and mediation of Sir John of the Kings Council (which were his good friends) was he put on horse, and he spent his whole life in France, at a house of his own, not far from Nottingham, being generally beloved and respected of all. We shall here give you an account of the several combats that he fought, and the many other many pranks he played; the one whereof

The merry Exploits of Robin Hood.

whereof by the strangeness of them, will give more respect unto his Story: and the other by their variety, will abundantly serve to give more delight unto the Reader.

Robin Hoods Delight: Or,

A gallant Combate fought between Robin Hood, Little John, and William Scarlock, and three of the Keepers of the Kings Deer in the Forrest of Sheerwood in Nottinghamshire.

On a Midwinter day in the morning, Robin Hood being accompanied with Little John and Will Scarlock, did walk forth betimes in the morning: and wished that in the way they might meet with some Adventure that might be worthy of their valour: they had not walked long by the Forrest side, but beheld three of the Keepers of the Kings Game, appeared, with their Forrest Bills in their hands, and well appointed with Franchises and Bucklers to defend themselves. Now here (saith Robin Hood) according to our wish, we have met with our Dates, and before we part from them, we will try of what mettle they are made. What, Robin Hood? said one of the Keepers. If, the same, replies Robin; When have at you. Is it the Keepers: here are three of us, and three of you, we will single out our selves one to one; and thus Robin, I for my part, am resolved to have a bout with thee. Content with all my heart, said Robin Hood, and Fortune shall determine who shall have the best of the Outlaw, or the Keeper: with that they did lay down their Dates, which were all of Lincoln Green, and fell to it for the space of five hours with their Forrest Bills; in which hot Exercise, Robin Hood, Little John, and Will Scarlock, had the better; and giving the Keepers leave to breathe, demanded of them how they liked them: why a good front Blades, saith, saith the Keeper that fought with Robin, for commend you: but let us make trial whether you are as good at point & sword and Bucklers as you have been at the Quarter-Staffe. why, do you doubt of it, said Robin Hood? we shall satisfy you in that immediately. with that having laid down their Dates, and thrown off their Doublets, they fell to it pell mell; and dealt their blows admirably fully sore, which were carefully always defended with their Bucklers. At the last, Robin Hood observing Little John, and Will Scarlock begin to give ground, which they never did in all their

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lives before, he dissembled the danger, and calling out for a little respite to breathe, he said unto the Keepers, Good Woves, I faith, and the best that ever I dealt withall; let me know your names, and for the time to come I will give that respect unto you that becoms unto your valour. Tush said one of the Keepers, lose time in asking after our names; if thou wilt have any more to doe with our Wives, or with our Swords, we are for thee: I see that that you are stout men, said Robin Hood, we will fight no more in this place, but come and go with me to Nottingham, (I have Silver and Gold enough about me) there we will fight it out at the Kings-head Tavern with good Back and Claret; and after we are weary, we will lay down our Armes and become sworn Brothers to one another; for I love those men that will stand to it, and soon to turn their backs to the proudest Mercantile of them all. Faith all our hearts, jolly Robin, said the Keepers to him; so putting up their Swords; and on their Doublets, they went to Nottingham; where for thise dayes space they followed the Wits of Back, and Pipes of Claret without intermission, and drank themselves good friends.

Robin Hoods Progress to Nottingham.

How being affronted with fifteen Forreiners as he was going to a Match at shooting with the long Bowe before the Kings; he killed fifteen of the said Forreiners.

The Name of Robin Hood did now begin to grow famous up and down the Country; those who had occasion to go from one Market to another, were either afraid of him, and did forbear to go those wayes where his haunts were; or else they there for fear with him, and every Quarter did give him money, that with these Good and Litle, they might pass by unmolested. This he conceived to be a secure and a thriving way to fill his pockets, wherefore he contracted with all the Chaziers and rich Farmers thereabouts, who had rather to give him every Quarter a certain sum of money, then to be liable to those Thefts and dangers both by day and night, which before did too much afflict them. Robin Hood in the mean time living high, and being out of any fear of Hue and Cryes, or Constables Warrants; would repair oftentimes to the

The merry Exploits of Robin Hood

the Town of Nottingham, where he would constantly make himself full merry at the Kings Head, and no Quest was more respected then himself. It so fell out, that the King being at that time at a great Charles house not far from Nottingham, the Colonels, and some other of the adjacent Countrey, did intend to delight his Majesty with the honest Exercise and Recreation of Archery. Whither were going many of the Rangers of Sherwood Forest, and thither was going Robin Hood himself, but so disguised, that it was not easie for any one to know him. The Foresters meeting of him, demanded of him, whether he was going, he told them to the Shooting Match, to which purpose he had taken his Bowe of Cewe along with him. Thou shoot (said one of the Foresters) thou white; Alas young Boy, thou art not able to bend a Bowe of Cewe, much lesse to draw it being bent; thou shoot before the King. I will hold you twenty Sparks (said Robin Hood, that I will shoot a good Buck one hundred rods off, and kill him dead on the place. A hundred Spark on that (said the Foresters,) Down with your butt, said Robin; and having told down the Money, with which he did go alwayes provided, he bended his Bowe, and having drawn a broad Arrow up to the head of it, he did let it fly at a fat Buck one hundred rods off and more, the arrow entering in between the ribs of the Buck, made him give a jump from the ground, and fell down dead on the place; which Robin clapping, the Mayor (said he) is mine if it were for a thousand pounds. It is none of thine, said the Foresters, and began to threaten him with violence, if he did not let the Money alone, and get him suddenly gone. Robin Hood smiling with indignation, I will go (said he) but you shall stay till you are carried off the place on which you stand every mothers son of you. With that he dister his at one of the Foresters, and then at another, and at another, and last not shooting his well belled Arrows, untill that fourteen of the fifteen Foresters lay dead on the plain; close unto the Buck; the fifteenth was making away with all the spoils he could, but Robin sent a forked arrow after him, which cutting quite through his back and body, came out at his breast. How to your costs, said Robin Hood, you have found me to be an Archer; I am taking up the money with him, he withdrew into the Forest, and was at further danger that might ensue; and the spilling of more blood. In the mean time, the Colonelsmen of Nottingham hearing that

Robin

The merry Exploits of Robin Hood.

Robin Hood was abroad, and that many of the Foresters were slain, did go forth in great numbers, hoping that Robin Hood was either slain, or so hurt, that they might now take him and bring him to the King; but he having sent some of his Ringing arrows amongst them, they found to their costs by his Ringing experience, that he was safe enough from being hurt or endangered: Wherefore having taken up the fifteen Foresters that he had slain, they brought them into Nottingham Colon, where so many Graves being digged in the Church-yard, they were all buried by one another; and in death, as well as life, kept company together.

Robin Hood and the Tanner:

O R,

Robin Hood met with his Match:

Relating the great and fierce Combat between Arthur Bland a Tanner of Nottingham, and Robin Hood the great Archer of England.

After this so sad an Execution of so many of the Foresters, there was not any one so hardy as to question bold Robin Hood concerning any feats of Archery: and to speak the truth, he did of himself forbear for the space of many years to come unto the merry Colon of Nottingham, in regard that his slaughter of so many Foresters at once had made him terrible and odious to the Inhabitants thereabouts, but especially to the said Foresters' Wives, who did curse him most extremely. In the proceſſe of time as he was walking one Summers morning in the Forrest of Sherwood, he observed a man strong of body, and stern of aspect, to come up unto him to give him an affront; whereupon he commanded him to stand, and told him, he believed he was some bold fellow that came to steal the Kings Deer, and he being one of the Keepers, he must discharge his trust, and secure his person. The other who was a Tanner in the Colon of Nottingham, having a long staff on his shoulder, and knowing as well how to use it, as any he whatsoever, told him plainly, that they must be more then two or three that must make him stand, and that he cared not a straw for his Sword, or for his Bowe, or for his Bulver of soaked beards Arrows; for he believed if he were well put to it, he could as soon bite as shot. Robin Hood being nothing discouraged,

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couraged, desired him to speak clearly, and give him better terms, or else he would thrust him into better manners. Thrust me (said Bland) marry giv with a winnison / Art thou such a goodly man, I care not a fig for thee. Why, then thou shalt care for me, said Robin Hood; and unbuckling his belt, and laying down his Bowe and his Arrowes, he took up a staffe of Ground-ash, and would have Bland to measure the length of his staffe with his, because he would have no foul play in the Tryall of their Panhood. But Bland replied, I passe not for length, my staffe is of good Oake, and eight foot and an half in length, although shorter then thine, thou shalt finde it long enough to reach thy Coxcomb. At these words Robin Hood could no longer refraine, but making two or three fine flourishes over his head, he gave him such a remembrance on the crown of his head, that the blood trickled down upon his shoulders. But Arthur Bland did soon recover himselfe, and blousing Robin Hood took to himselfe, for he would be even with him: he came up with hand lost, and Robin Hood believing that he would be upon him with the fore-end of his staffe, Bland suddenly drew back, and being very nimble at it, he gave Robin Hood so rude a visitation on the right side of his head with the other end of his staff, that he not onely stunn'd him, but withall did break his head so pittifully, that the blood ranne down amaine. Robin Hood being not often used to behold such a sight, did lay at Bland with all the strength and art he had; and Bland was no wayes wanting to defend himself, and to returne blow for blow. Two hours together they were in this hot exercise, and about, and about, they traversed their Ground, till the Wood and their sides rang with the blowes which they did give to one another. At the last, Robin Hood desired him to hold his hand, and let the Quarrell fall, for he found (he said) that nothing was to be gotten on either side but oyle blowes: he moreover assured him, that for the time to come he should be free of the Forrest. God a mercy for nothing (said Arthur Bland) I have not bought that Freedome of thee, I may thank my good Staffe for it, and the Hand that governed it. Here upon Robin Hood demanded of him, of what Trade he was, and where he dwelt, to whom Bland made answer, I am a Tanner; and have wrought long in Nottingham, and if thou ever comest thither, I doe swear unto thee that I will Tanne thy hide for nought. Wilt thou so, said Robin, And I will do as much for thee;

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the; but if thou wilt forsake thy Tanners trade and lye here in the Forrest with me, I dare assure thee thou shalt have Store of Gold and Silver, and want for nothing. Arthur Bland conceiving who it was, did say unto him, If thou art Robin Hood, as by thy manhood I believe thou art, here is my hand, that if thou wilt never part with me, I will never part with thee: but where is Little John? I would faine see him; for he is near of kin to me by my mothers side. Robin Hood no sooner heard him say so, but he blew his Horn, and presently afterwards they might discover Little John coming down the hill, who observing his Master to stand with his staff in his hand, asked him what the matter was; he told him that he had met with the Tanner of Nottingham who had tanned his hide to some tunc. Merry and that is well done, said Little John, I will see if he can tan my hide also. Friends look to your self! Hare at you. Thereupon Robin Hood cryed out, Hold thy hand, hold thy hand, he is thy friend and kinsman, his name is Arthur a Bland. My cozzen Arthur, said Little John, how glad am I to see you, my good cozzen; and throwing down his staff, he did run unto him, and did embrace him with the closest arms of love. After that Robin Hood took them both by the hand, and dancing about an old Oak-tree, with a song in their mouths, and mirth in their hearts, they expressed all the signes of undissembled Affection to one another.

Robin Hood and the Butcher.

How Robin Hood bought of the Butcher his Mare, and the Meat with which she was laden, and how he circumvented the Sheriff of Nottingham, and deluded him of three hundred pound.

Not long afterwards, Robin Hood walking in the Forrest as it was his daily custome, observed a Butcher riding along the way, having good store of Meat on his Mares back which he was to sell in the Market. Good morrow good fellow, said Robin to the Butcher: Good fellow, replied the Butcher. Heavens keep me from Robin Goodfellow; for if I meet with him, I may chance fall short of my journey, and my meat of the market. I like thy company well, what hast thou to sell, said Robin Hood? Fleish, Master, said the Butcher, with which I am going to Nottingham

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tingham Market. What is the price of thy Flesh, said Robin Hood, and of thy Ware that bears it, tell me, for if thou wilt use me well, I will buy both. Four Mark said the Butcher. I cannot abate any thing of it. Sit down then, and tell thy Money, said Robin Hood, I will try for once if I can thibe by being a Butcher. The Money being told, Robin Hood gets up on the Ware, and away he rides with his meat to Nottingham Market, where he made such good penniworths, that he had sold all his Meat by ten of the clock in the morning: He sold more Meat for one penny then others could doe for five. The Butchers in the Market that had their stands by him, said one to another, Certainly this mans Meat is naught and putrefied, or else he hath stolen it. From whence comes he, saith another, I never did see him here before: What will I tell you by and by, said a third Butcher, and stepping to Robin Hood, said unto him, Brother thou art the fraest Butcher that ever came to this Market. We be all of one Trade, come let us dine together. Accurst be he that will deny a Butcher so fair an invitation, said Robin Hood; and going with them to the Inn, the Table was suddenly covered and furnished, and the best man in the company being to say Grace, Robin Hood at the upper end of the Table did put off his Bonnet: And God blisse us all, said he, and our Meat upon this place: A cup of sack is good, to nourish the blood, and so I end my Grace. Robin Hood had no sooner sate, but called for a cup of sack and drank to them all, desiring them to be merry; for if there were fife pounds to pay, he would pay it every farthing. Whon art the bravest Blade, said the Butchers that ever came to Nottingham Market. Robin Hood still called for more wine, and the cups requied up and down the Table, insomuch, that the Sherif who was newly alighted, and taken his Chamber in the Inn, understanding of it, said, He was some Prodigal that had sold his Land, and now would spend it all at once; which coming to Robin Hoods ear, he after dinner took the opportunity to speak unto him: And what! said the Sherif, Good Fellow thou hast made a good market to day; hast thou any more horned Beasts to sell? What I have, said Robin Hood, to master Sherif, I have two or three hundred, and a hundred Acres of as good Land to keep them on, as ever the Crow flew ever; which if you will buy of me, I will make you as good Assurance of it, as ever my Father

The merry Exploits of Robin Hood:

ther made me. The Sheriff being a covetous man, and perswading himself that he would make him Robin Hood, permiworts, commanded his Horse to be brought forth, and taking some money with him for the Purchase, he ead with Robin Hood, who leading him into the Forrest for a mile or two out of sight. The Sheriff being laden with good store of Gold, and surprized with the melancholy of the place, did with himself at Nottingham again; and why so, said Robin Hood; I tell thee plainly, said the Sheriff, I do not like thy Company, so said Robin Hood, then I will provide you better. God keep me from Robin Hood, said the Sheriff, for this is the Haunt he useth. Robin Hood smiling, observed a Herd of three hundred gallant Deer, feeding in the Forrest close by him, and demanded of the Sheriff how he liked those Horned Beasts, assuring him they were the best which he could shew him; with that he blew his Horn, whereupon Little John with fifty more of his associates came presently in, to whom Robin Hood imparted, that he had brought with him the Sheriff of Nottingham to Dine with him. He is welcome, said Little John, I know he hath store of Gold, and will honestly pay for his Dinner, I, I, said Robin Hood, never doubt it; and taking off the Sheriffs Portmanteau he took to himself the three hundred pound that it was in it, then leading him back through the Forrest, he desired him to remember him kindly to his Wife, and so went laughing away.

Robin Hood and the Beggar.

Shewing how he fought with the Beggar, and changed Cloths with him; and how going afterwards a begging to Nottingham, he saved three Brothers, who were all condemned for stealing the Kings Deer.

BUT Robin took not any long delight in the Mare which he bought of the Butcher, but having now supplied himself with good store of money which he had gotten by the Sheriff of Nottingham, he bought him a stout Gelding, and riding one day on him towards Nottingham, it was his fortune to meet with a poor Beggar; Robin Hood was of a frolick spirit, and no acceptor of persons, but observing the Beggar to have severall sorts

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of Baggs which were fastned to his patched Coat, he did rise up to him, and giving him the time of the Day, he demanded of him what Countrey-man he was; a Yorkshire-man, said the Beggar, and I would desire of you to give me something: Give thee, said Robin Hood, why, I have nothing to give thee. I am a poor Ranger in the Forrest, and thou seemest to be a lusty Knave; shall I give thee a good Bastinado over thy Shoulders. Content, content, said the Beggar, I durst lay my Coat and all my Baggs to a threescore point thou wilt repent it; with that Robin Hood alighted, and the Beggar and he fell to it; he with his Sword and backker, and the Beggar with his long Quarter-staff, who so well defended himself, that let Robin Hood do what he could, he could not come with his Beggar, to slay him to a remembrance of his overboldnesse; and nothing vexed him more, then to find that the Beggars Staffe was as hard and as obdurate as Iron itself: but so was not Robin Hoods head; for the Beggar with all his force did let his staff descend with such a side-blow, that Robin Hood for all his skill could not defend it, but the blood came trickling down his face, which turning Robin Hoods courage into revenge and fury, he let fly at him with his trusty Sword, and doubled blow on blow, but perceiving that the Beggar did hold him so hard to it, that one of his blows was but the fore-runner of another, and every blow to be almost the Postillion of death, he cryed out to him to hold his hand. That will I not doe, said the Beggar, unlesse thou wilt resigne unto me thy Poole, and thy Sword, and thy Cloaths, with all the Money thou hast in thy pockets. The change is uneven, said Robin Hood, but for once I am content; so putting on the Beggars Cloaths, the Beggar was the Gentleman, and Robin Hood the Beggar, who entering into Nottingham Town with his patched Coat and several Mallets, understood that three Brethren were that day to suffer at the Gallows being condemned for killing the Kings Deer; he made no more ado but went directly to the Sheriffs house, where a young Gentleman seeing him to stand at the doore, demanded of him what he would have. Robin Hood returned answer, that he came to crave neither meat nor drink, but the lives of those three Brethren who were condemned to die. That cannot be, said the young Gentleman; for they are all this day to suffer according to Law, for stealing of the Kings Deer, and they are already con-
veyed

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reped out of Town to the place of Execution. I will there be with them presently, said Robin Hood, and coming to the Gallows, he found many making great lamentation for them: Robin Hood did comfort them, and assured them they should not die, and blowing his Horn, behold on a sudden a hundred brave Archers came unto him, by whose help having released the Prisoners, and killed the Hangman, and hurt many of the Sheriffs Officers, they took those who were condemned to die for killing the Kings Deer along with them, who being very thankful for the preservation of their lives, became afterwards of the Peomanry of Robin Hood.

Robin Hood revived.

Or,

His gallant Combate with a Valiant yong Gentleman, who proved afterwards to be his Kinsman.

Every Day almost did answer the expectation of Robin Hood; for every Day did administer him one new Adventure or another; He now did wish he had continued his Butchers Trade a little longer; for Provisions grew scarce, and he had not wherewith to maintaine his Retinue, or himselfe; Rising therefore forth to see what good Fortune he could be Master of, he met with a young Gentleman that had shot a Buck; Robin Hood was not far off when it was done, and commended him for his Archery, and offered him a place in his Service, to be one of his Peomen, which the young Gentleman disdainful, told him if he would not be gone, he would kick him out of that place; Robin Hood being unlesen to such affronts, assured him that he had Pen enough to take his part if he would but blow his Horn. Sound it and thou darest, said the Gentleman; I can draw out a good Sword that shall cut thy Throat, and thy Horn too. These rough words made Robin Hood so impatient that he did bend his Bow, which the Gentleman observing, said unto him, I am as ready for that as you, but then one; if not both of us shall be surely slain; it were far better to try it out with our Swords and Bucklers; content, said Robin Hood, we can no where finde a more fitting place then under the shadow of this Oak. They drew out their Swords, and to it they went; Robin Hood gave the young Gentleman

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Gentleman a cut on the right Elbow, and a little prick on his left Shoulder, which the Gentleman returned with advantage, insomuch that both of them taking respite to breathe a little, Robin Hood demanded of him if he had never seen nor heard of him before. I know not who you are said the Gentleman, but my name is Gamwell, I was born in Maxfield, and for killing of my Fathers Steward, I am enforced hither to seek out my Uncle known to most men by the name of Robin Hood: why I am the man, said Robin Hood, and throwing down his Sword and Buckler, he made haste to embrace him whom before he had so rashly wounded. Great was the love, and many the reciprocal acknowledgments that were betwixt them, when in the instant there stepped in Little John, to whom Robin Hood having communicated what had passed, he gave his kinsman a place to Little John, Little John being alwayes next unto himself. Not long afterwards he travelled into the North, where a bonny bold Scot offering him his service, he refused to entertain him, alleging that he was never true either to father or kinsman, much less would he prove true to himself. At that time the Battel grew hot betwixt the Scots and the English, and Robin Hood turning to the English, Fight on, said he, my merry men all, our Cause is good, we shall not be beaten; and though I am compassed about, with my sword I will cut my way through the midst of my enemies.

Robin Hood and the Bishop.

Shewing how he changed Cloaths with an old Woman to escape from the Bishop, and afterwards how he robbed the Bishop of all his Gold, and made him sing Mass, &c.

Robin Hood being returned with renown into Nottinghamshire, did walk forth one morning on foot to see how affairs stood in the world: he had not gone far, but he beheld a Bishop riding towards London, and attended with one hundred followers. He perceived that the Bishop had notice of him, and being alone, and not knowing how to avoid him, he hid himself into an old Womans house, and making his complaint unto her, the old Woman asked him who he was, to whom he revealed that he was that famous Out-law, commonly called by the name of Robin Hood; if thy name be so, said the old Woman, I will do the best I can

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I can to provide for thee, for I do well remember, it is not long since I received some Courtesies from thee; the best way that I can advise thee to conceal thy self, is to put on my cloaths, and I will put on thine; with all my heart, said Robin Hood; so putting on her Gray Coat, he gave her his Green one, with his Doublet and Breeches, and his Bow, and those few Arrows he had. This was no sooner done, but the Bishops men, with their Swords drawn, entred into the house, did take the old Woman, beleeving she had bin Robin Hood, and did set her on a Milk-white Steed, and followed himself on a Dapple-gray, being over-joyed within himself at the great purchase he had made. In the meantime, Robin Hood being arrayed in the old Womans cloaths, with a Rock and Sphindole in his hand, did address himself straight away unto his company; and little John beholding him coming over the Green, cryed out, O! who is she that wonder is coming toward us, and looketh so like a Witch; I will shut her dead, and being down I will nail her to the Earth with one of my broad Arrows; O hold thy hand, said Robin Hood, I am thy master; and coming neerer, he told them what had befallen at the old Womans house: And to confirm what he said, they beheld the Bishop with a gallant train riding up that way. The Bishop espying a hundred brave Bow-men standing under a tree in the way where he was to pass, demanded of his Prisoner who they were: Harry replied the old Woman, I think it is Robin Hood with his company. Why, who art thou then, said the Bishop? Why, I am an old Woman said his prisoner, thou proud blind Bishop; and if thou wilt not believe me, lift up my leg and see. Then was it said the Bishop. He had scarce begun to himself, but Robin Hood called to him, and bid him stay, and taking hold of his horse, he tied the Bishop fast to a tree, and seizing on his sumpter-horse he took out of his port-mantle five hundred pound: which being done, Robin Hood smiling on Little John, and all his company laughing at one another, Robin Hood bid Little John give him his Horse and let him go: by no means said the Company, for he shall sing us a Masse before we let him loose: which being done, to the Bishops great grief and shame, they set him on his Horse again, with his face towards the tail, and bidding him to pray for Robin Hood, they suffered him to go forward on his journey.

Renowned

The merry Exploits of Robin Hood.

Renowned Robin Hood.

Or,

His Famous Archery before Queen Katharine, for which at that time, his Pardon, and his Fellows, was obtained by the Queen.

Robin Hood having on all hands supplied himself with good Hoze of Gold, he sent thereof a considerable Present to Queen Katharine, with a Petition to mediate to his Majesty for a Pardon for himself, and his Associates. The Queen accepted of both and sent one of her Pages, Richard Patrington by name, to advise him to come to Court, and she would not fail to do the best she could to accomplish his request; great was the haste that Patrington made, being well mounted, he dispatched within the compass of two days and less, so long a journey. Being come to Nottingham he found that friendship, that on the next morning he was brought to Robin Hoods place, where acquainting him with his Message from the Queen; He assured her by him, that he would not fail to wait upon her Majesty, and withall sent her a small Present of his great Duty and Obedience. Immediately he cloathed the chiefest of his Men in Lincoln-Green with black Hats and white Feathers, all alike, and himself in Scarlet: and thus attended he came to London to the Queen, who said unto him, Welcome Lockly; The King is now gone into Finsbury Field, to be present at a great Game at shooting with the Langbow, and you come very seasonably unto it. Do you go before, I will presently be there my self; When Robin Hood was come into Finsbury-Fields, the King spake to Tepin his Bow-bearer, and bad him to measure out the Line, to know how long the Park should be; and the Queen, not long afterwards being late next unto him, The King asked of her, for what Mager they should shoot; The Queen made answer, The Mager is three hundred Tun of Rhenish Wine, and three hundred Tun of Beer, and three hundred of the fattest Bucks that runne on Dallum Plains. Beshrew me, said the King, it is a Wondrous Mager indeed; well mark out the ground; this immediately was done, and it was in length full fifteen-score; Clifton, a famous Archer about the Town, boasted that he would hit the Clout every time. And now the Kings Archers had shot three Cows, and were three
for,

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th; none; But the Queen nothing discouraged, desired to know if any would bet on her side, and Sir Richard Lee, who was descended of the Noble Family of the Gowers, standing close unto her, she encouraged him to lay one wager; but he being unwilling to make so desperate a venture, he spake to the Bishop of Hereford, who told her very bluntly, that he would not bet one penny on her side. For, said he, those that shoot on the Kings side are excellent & experienced Archers; and those that you have made choice of, we know not what they are, nor from whence they come; I thrust wager, said the Bishop, all that I have about me against them: What is that, said Robin Hood, Fifty score Nobles, said the Bishop; and that is almost one hundred pound: 'Tis right, said Robin Hood, I will lay with you, and taking his bag of Money from his side, he threw it down upon the Queen: William Scarlock being present said; I will venture my life, that I know beforehand who shall win this wager.

Now the Archers did begin to shoot again and now those whom the Queen made choice of were equall with those of the Kings side, they were both three and three: whereupon the King spake aloud to the Queen and said, The next three must pay for all, Robin Hood in the first place shot, and with such dexterity of art, that his Arrow entred into the Clout, and almost touched the Black: He on the Kings side who did second him, did shoot well and came very near unto the Clout: Then shot Little John, and hit the Black, at which the Ladies laught aloud, being now almost sure that the Game would go on their side, which Midge the Millers son confirmed; for I know not at that time whether I may most commend his Art or his Fortune, but so it was that he clef the very Pin in the middle of the Black, and that with such a twang of his Bow, that it seemed, that that did proclaim the Victory before the Arrow came unto the Mark.

The Queen having thus won the wager, she fell down on her knees before the King, and besought his Majesty that he would not be angry with any there present who were on her side; this the King (the day being designed to mirth) did condescend unto, although he did not well understand what she did mean by that petition. This being granted, the Queen said aloud, Then welcome Robin Hood, and welcome Little John, welcome Midge the Millers son, and welcome every one of Robin Hoods Company that

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that is now in the Field. Is this Robin Hood, said the King: I thought he had been slain at the Palace-gate in the North. The Bishop of Hereford turning to the King, said unto him, May it please your Majesty, this bold Out-law, this Robin Hood, on Saturday was this week took from me five hundred pound in Gold, and bound me fast to a tree, and afterwards made me sing a Psalme, and to those of his most unruly company that were with him: What if I did, said Robin Hood I was full glad of it, for I had not heard Psalms before in many a year; and for recompence for it, behold Sir Bishop, here is half your Gold. Yes, no, said Little John, that must not be, for Master before we go, we are to give Gifts to the King and Queens Officers, and the Bishops Gold will serue for all.

The famous battell betwixt Robin Hood and the curial Frier, and how the Frier let Robin Hood fall in the water, &c.

Robin Hood being now grown most famous for his skill in Archery; and being high in the favour of Queen Katherine, did return with much honour into Nottinghamshire, whither being come, he sollicitated a day of mirth of himself, and all his Companions. And wagers were laid amongst them, who should exceed at this Exercise, and who at that; some did contend who should jump furthest; some should throw the Bar; some to be should be swiftest a foot in a Race of five miles of length; others there were with which Little John was most delighted, who did strive which of them should hit the strongest Bow; and be the best Marksmen: Let me see, said Little John, which of you can kill a Buck, and who can kill a Doe, and who is he can kill a Hart, being distant from it by the space of five hundred Foot. With that Robin Hood going before them, they went directly to the Forrest, where they found good Boze of Game feeding before them. William Scarlock that was the strongest Bow of them all did kill a Buck, and Little John made choice of a barren fat Doe, and the well directed Arrow did enter into the very heart of it; and Midge the Millers son did kill a Hart above five hundred foot distant from him. The Hart falling, Robin Hood stoode humbly on his shoulder, and said unto him, Gods blessing on thy heart, I will ride five hundred Spices to give a Spatch for thee.

William

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William Scarlock hearing him speak those words smiled, and said unto him, Master, what meanest thou: Here is a Curial Friar not far off, that for a hundred Pound will shoot at what distance you your self will propound, either with Midge, or with your self. An experienced Man he is, and will vaine a Bowe with great strength, he will shoot with your self, and with all the men you have one after another. Sayest thou so Scarlock, replies Robin Hood, by the grace of God I will neither eat nor drink till I see this Friar thou dost speak of. And having prepared himself for his journey, he took Little John, and fifty of his best Archers with him, whom he bestowed in a convenient place, as he himselfe thought fitting. This being done, he rode down into the Dale where he found the Curial Friar walking by the Water side. He at firste stopped him, but presently he took unto him his hood, bowe, and Buckler, and put on his Head a Steel Bonnet. The Friar not knowing who he was, or for what intent he came, was presently arm himselfe to encounter with him. Robin Hood, coming near unto him, alighted from his Horse, which he tyed to a Thorn that grew hard by, and looking wisely on the Friar, said unto him, Carry me over the Water thou Curial Friar, or else thy life lies at the stake. The Friar made no more ado but took up Robin Hood, and carried him on his back, the story saith. When water he did stride, he spake not so much as one word to him, but having carried him over, he gently laid him down on the side of the Bank: which being done, the Friar said to Robin Hood, It is now his turn: Therefore carry me over the Water thou bold fellow, or be sure I shall make thee to repent it. Robin Hood to requite the courtesie, took the Friar on his back, and not speaking the least word to him, carried him over the Water, and laid him gently down on the side of the Bank: and turning to him, he spake unto him as at the first, and bad him carry him over the water once more, or he should answer it with the loss of his life. The Friar in a smiling manner took him up, and spake not a word till he came into the midst of the Stream, where being up to the middle and higher, he did shake him from off his shoulders, and said unto him, Now chuse thou bold fellow, whether thou wilt sink or swim. Robin Hood being faintly touched, gat up on his feet, and prostrating himselfe on the Water, did swim to a bush of Waxum on the other side of the Bank;

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Bank; the Friar swimm'd to a Willow-tree which was not far from it: Robin Hood taking his Bowe in his hand, and one of his best Arrows, did shoot at the Friar, which the Friar perceiv'd in his Buckler of Steel; and said unto him, What art thou, that on thou heldest Fellow, if thou shootest at me a whole Summers day, I will stand thy mark still. What wilt I try, said Robin Hood, and shot Arrow after Arrow at him, until he had not one Arrow left in his Quiver. He then laid down his Bowe, and drew out his Sword, which but two dayes before had been the death of three men. Now hand to hand they met with Swords and Buckler; the Steel Buckler defends whatsoever blow is given: sometimes they make at the Head, sometimes at the Foot, sometimes at the side, sometimes they strike directly down, sometimes they falsifie their blows, and come in Foot and Arm with a full thrust at the Body; and being ashamed that so long they exercise their impossible Valour, and cannot hurt one another, they multiply their Blows, they back, they helve, they slash, they soine. At the last Robin Hood desired the Friar to hold his hand, and to give him leave to blow his Horn: Thou wantest breath to sound it, said the Friar, take thee a little respite, for we have been five hours at it by Fountain Abbey Clock. Robin Hood took his Horn from his side, and having sounded it three times, Behold where fifty lusty men, with their bended Bowes, came in to his assistance. The Friar wondering at it, whose men, said he, be these? They are mine, said Robin Hood, What is that to thee? False Loun, said the Friar, and making a little pause, he desired Robin Hood to return him the same courtesy which he gave him. What is that, said Robin Hood? Thou soundest thy Horn, said the Friar, three times, let me now but whistle three times. I, with all my heart, said Robin Hood; I were to blame if I should deny thee that courtesy. With that the Friar set his Fitt to his Mouth, and whistled three times so shrilly, that the place echoed again with it; and behold three and fifty fair Bandogs (their Tails rising on their backs denoting their rage) were almost on the backs of Robin Hood and his Companions. Here is for every one of thy men a Dog, said the Friar, and two for thee: What is foul play, said Robin Hood. He had scarce spoken that word, but two Dogs came upon him at once, one before, and another behind him; who although they could

The cherry! Exploit of Robin Hood

could not touch his flesh. (His sword had made so few a dispatch
of them) yet they tore his Coat in three pieces. By this time, his
men had to do about them, that the Dogs began to fly back, and
their sharp-to-langsith into barking. Little John did so bestir
himself, that the Dutch Friar, arriving at disadvantage and his
nimbleste, did ask him who he was. He made answer, I will
tell thee truth, and will not lye; I am he who is called Little
John, and we belong to Robin Hood, who hath fought with thee
this day. We have fought together, and if thou wilt not submit unto
him, this Arrow shall make thee. The Friar, returning how
much he was overpowered, and that it was impossible for him
to deal against so many at once, did come to composition with Ro-
bin Hood. The Articles of Agreement went these; That the
Friar should abandon Fountains Dale, and Fountain Abbey, and
live with Robin Hood at his place not far from Nottingham, where
so; saying of Mass; he should receive a shilling every Sunday
throughout the year; and for saying of Mass on every Holy Day,
a new change of Garment. The Friar contented with these
Conditions, did seal to the Agreement, and thus by the courage
of Robin Hood and his people, he was forced at the last to
submit, having for taken long years kept in Fountains Dale, and not
all the power thereabouts being able to bring him down on his
knees. And addition of words drawn out, added nothing to the

The noble Fisherman : **O Right**
Robin Hood's Prefecture. Shewing how he did win a Prize at
Sea, and how he gave the half of it to his Daughters; and the other
to Charitable Uses.

THe Countreys and Cities being full of the Exploits of Robin Hood and his Companions, he resolv'd with himself to make some adventure at Sea, and to try if he could be as famous at Sea as he was at Land. Having therefore call'd all his Men together, he did communicate unto them what was his resolution: but none of them would consent unto it, nor any of them would so much as go along with him in such an expedition. Lic-

The lively Exploits of Robin Hood.

He John in whom he much trusted, and who was partner both
 him in all his Counsels, and in all his Dangers, was absolutely
 against it; and told him it was a madness in him to harbour any
 thought of such an Adventure: wherefore Robin Hood did go
 alone by himself to Scarborough, where being clad in a Shep-
 herds habit, he came to a pleasant house by the Water side, and
 desired entertainment. The good Woman seeing him a tall
 likely fellow, did ask him what his Name was: he made answer,
 Simon over the Lee. It is a good Name, said she: and I hope
 thou wilt make a good Merchant. If thou wilt, she says, I
 will give thee any thing that is in reason thou shalt demand: I
 have a Ship of my own, and as good as any that sails upon
 the Sea, neither thou nor it shall want for any accommodation.
 Robin Hood being content, to her he took a Chamber-maid, of
 her, and in the next morning, the Ship was ready to sail: the Ship
 put forth to Sea, where Robin Hood had not been long, but he
 fell very sick; the Ship and he could not agree, which made him
 in many loud Ejaculations to vomit forth the Ship against it.
 Whereby he was so extremely indiscreet, that the Master of
 the Ship repeated a thousand times that he ever took him along
 with him, and every one should call him the tall unwise lubber.
 When others as they were a fishing would cast into the
 Sea their baited Hooks, he would throw in nothing but his bare
 Line, without any Hook or Bait at all; which amongst other
 things made him so ridiculous, that a thousand times he wished
 himself again either in Sheerwood Forrest, or in Plumpton Park:
 At the last, the Master of the Ship steyed a Spanish man of War
 to make up to him, wherefore he made away from her with all
 the speed he could; but being impossible to out-sail her, they
 picked themselves lost, and all the Goods in the Ship. Robin
 Hood, who called himself Simon over the Lee, seeing all men in
 despair, took courage to himself, and bad his Master but give
 him his Bow and his Arrows, and he would deal small enough
 with them all. Thou deal with them, said the Master, I think
 we all saw thee loose in the Ship for such a Lubber as thou art.
 Robin grew angry at these words, nevertheless taking his Bow
 and Arrows in his hand, he went up to the Deck, and drawing
 his Arrow up to the very head, killed one Spaniard; and by and
 by, another, and another. The Master of the Ship seeing the
 Spaniards

The Merry Exploits of Robin Hood

superior as to ship or sail; he encouraged his men, and honoured the ship; where Robin Hood, and Simon, behaved himself so manfully, that by his particular valour, they possessed themselves of the ship; in which they found twelve thousand pounds, half of which money Robin Hood allotted for his wages and his soldiers; and the other half to the Companyers: on the ship, also said the Master, it must not be to Simon; for you have taken it with your own hands, and you shall be Master of it; in by then said Robin Hood, it shall be as I have said. Half of it shall remain mine, another third new, and the other you shall divide betwixt you. The other half shall be to the building of an Hospital for the maintenance of the Poor. And so he attended and conducted his soldiers.

Robin Hood's Chase

The New Project between Robin Hood and King Henry

Robin Hood returning to Sheerwood Forrest, did somewhat in Yorkshire a very strange exploit; I cannot well tell whether he was oversen with Wine or Rags, but certainly it was one of the worst things that ever he did. It was brought to the Kings ear, who protested that such a fact should not escape unpunished: and because the Sheriffs had heretofore complained that they could not take him, he was resolved to ride in pursuit of him himself. Being therefore come with a Royal Retinue unto Nottingham, all the Countrey was laid for him; which Robin Hood understanding, he by the advice of Little John, did privately convey himself from Sheerwood Forrest into Yorkshire: there were none with him but Little John, his Cozen Gammell, Wil. Scarlock, and two or three more. The King being informed that he was escaped into Yorkshire, did follow him with all the speed that could be, and Hue and Cryes were every where issued out to apprehend him. Which Robin Hood knowing, he fled out of Yorkshire to Newcastle, and from thence to Berwick: He had not continued there long, but tydings were brought that the King was

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The merry Exploits of Robin Hood

not in the pursuit of him; he was thereto constrained to go to
 Carlisle, where Little John being known, his way was very short;
 and a way he passed unto Lancaster, and from thence to Chester,
 where being in great danger to be betrayed; he consulted with
 himself that the only way for his safety was to flee to London;
 where having procured admittance to the Queen, he told her that
 he understood that the King was in several places to speak with
 him, which caused him to come thither, to know what his Majesty
 would have to say to him. The Queen told him the reports of
 the best she could for him; and that the King going away, told
 her, that he was taking a journey on purpose to seek him out.
 Having thus dispatched his business at Court, the King within
 few dayes afterwards came to it, where standing by the Queen
 that Robin Hood understanding his Majesty would speak with
 him, had been there to seek him. He is a cunning knave, said
 the King. The Queen falling down on her knees, besought him
 that (for his welcome to Court) he would for that once give her
 the life of that poor Outlaw; which being condescended to, Ro-
 bin Hood dismissed all his false Companions, and betaking him-
 self to a civil course of life, he did keep a gallant House; and
 travelled all the Country; the Duke of the North, and the Duke
 of the South.

The End.



